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censes in the Foreign Liquor Rules.

licenses issued for the sale of foreign liquor were cancelled in 1085. Though the licenses issued were valid only for one year, in cases where the traders were not guilty of any breach of the Abkari Regulation or Rules, it had been usual in the past to permit the licenses to be continued in succeeding years as well. Rule 26 of the Foreign Liquor Rules provided for the revocation of a license after giving only 15 days' notice. The Member referred to the losses that would be caused to the traders by the enforcement of this rule. In a case like that, the trader whose license was cancelled was forced to sell the articles in his stores to other licensed traders for whatever the latter might offer. There was also very great difficulty in recovering the outstanding dues from one's customers after the cancellation of the license. The result was that people who went in for the trade in foreign liquor not only gained nothing but they were put to heavy losses. The Member therefore requested that the rule in question might be so modified as to provide for a year's notice being given to a trader before his license was cancelled.

Dewan's reply.—The Excise Commissioner will be asked so to arrange the renewal of licenses as to produce the minimum amount of dislocation of trade.

8. *Establishment of a Tobacco bankshall at Kottayam.*

Mr. Kora Varkey (Member, Kottayam Trading Classes) stated that the trade of Kottayam had increased of late by the establishment of a District Court there and the opening of the Aruthooty canal. The supply of the articles required for the Tea Estates at Peermade and the Rubber Estates at Mundakayam &c., was made by the wholesale merchants of Kottayam, and the people of Pazhur, Ponkunnam, Kanjirapalli, Peruvanthanam and other places also indented on the Kottayam merchants for their supply. In the existing state of things, the Mellabhom merchants in the taluks of Changanacherri, Ettumanur, Thiruvella and Minachil had to get down their tobacco and keep it at the Alleppey bankshall and remove it from there in small quantities according to necessity. During the monsoon period, it would be dangerous to take any article across the Vembanad backwater. If therefore a bankshall be established at Kottayam, it would serve the Mellabhom merchants of all the abovesaid four taluks. The Member added that the Excise Commissioner had, on a former occasion, promised to open a bankshall at Kottayam, provided the merchants were prepared to pay warehouse rent at a higher rate than that prevailing in the other bankshalls. As such a demand was unjust and as the Government

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revenue from Tobacco greatly depended on the merchan the Member requested that arrangements might be ma for the opening of a bankshall at Kottayam before t next monsoon, if possible, charging warehouse rent the rates in force at Alleppey.

Dewan's reply.—The Excise Commissioner will asked to report on the matter.

19. Provision of additional accommodation for the Tobacco bankshall at Quilon and the construction of a bridge across the canal on the western side of the bankshall.

Mr. K. A. Krishna Pattar (Member, Quilon Tradin Classes) stated that, owing to the insufficiency of accor modation in the bankshall at Quilon, permits wer often refused to the merchants for importing Coimbato tobacco. It was very necessary that the Governmen should afford all possible facilities to such importers. H therefore requested that applications for import permit might in future be ordered to be granted without delay and that additional sheds might be put up for the bonding of Coimbatore tobacco. He also requested that bridge across the canal on the western side of the bankshall might be constructed with a view to avoid the present circuitous road for taking the Jaffna tobacco now imported into Quilon by sea. The bridge would be useful alike to the merchants and to the general public.

Dewan's reply.—The attention of the Excise Commissioner will be called to the representations made by the Member.

(*4*) *Customs Revenue.*

20. The export duty on copra and kindred products.

Mr. P. John (Member, Alleppey Trading Classes) stated that it was time for the Government to consider whether there was not scope for a further increase in the export tariff value of *copra*, thereby securing a few more lacs of rupees to the Government and protecting also the local mills, which were not at all in a flourishing condition. The export duty on *copra* was now Rs. 90 per candy. Taking the case of *punnac*, which was manufactured from *copra*, the market value of the same was Rs. 20 or 21 per candy, and the tariff value was Rs. 30 per candy. The average market price of *copra* in 1910 was nearly Rs. 100 per candy, against the tariff value of Rs. 90. Comparing the tariff value of *copra* with that of *punnac*, it would be seen that the duty on *copra* was not at all high. He suggested that the tariff value of *copra* might therefore be put at Rs. 150 per candy. The important fact which required careful consideration was whether the enhancement of the tariff value would in any way affect the export trade and as a consequence the market

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